

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Department of Emergency Services



PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe
Harford"

EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,
Building for the Future"

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining
Harford's Prosperity"

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our
Environment"

QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 4, 2013

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National Preparedness Month Recognized

(Forest Hill, MD) - - September is "**National Preparedness Month**". The Harford County Department of Emergency Services (DES) is participating in this national recognition to help increase preparedness throughout Harford County as well as the State of Maryland and nation. The event, now in its ninth year, is a nationwide, month-long effort to encourage citizens, businesses and communities to prepare and plan for emergencies.

One of the key messages of "**National Preparedness Month**" is to be prepared in the event an emergency leaves citizens to be self-reliant for three days without utilities, including electricity, water and access to food stores or local services.

The Harford County Department of Emergency Services recommends citizens throughout the county prepare for such emergencies by taking the following actions:

- Be informed about the types of emergencies that could happen and identify sources of information in the community that will be helpful before, during and after an emergency situation.
- Make a plan for what to do in an emergency.
- Prepare an emergency supply kit
- Get involved. Community leaders agree that the formula for ensuring a safer homeland consists of volunteers, a trained and informed public and increased support of emergency response agencies during disasters.

"Emergency preparedness is everyone's responsibility", said Russell J. Strickland, Director of the Department of Emergency Services. "The public cannot simply rely on fire fighters, law enforcement personnel and others to help them during emergency events. Preparedness is a shared responsibility that requires the commitment of individuals and the entire community," Strickland added.

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Whether emergencies are natural or man-made, the Harford County Department of Emergency Services stresses preparedness is the key to the safety and well-being of citizens and the community.

For additional information on emergency preparedness visit the following websites: <http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM>; www.ready.gov; the American Red Cross at <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/nationalpreparednessmonth>; or the Harford County Department of Emergency Services website at www.harfordpublicsafety.org.

Residents of Harford County are also encouraged to add their cell phone numbers to the **Harford County Emergency Notification System** by clicking the ***“Sign Up Now for Notifications”*** icon on the main webpage or by contacting the Department of Emergency Services at 410-638-4900.

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“Preserving Harford’s past; promoting Harford’s future”